

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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An optical scanning device includes a plurality of scanning optical systems configured to scan different scanning surfaces. Each of the scanning optical systems includes a light source configured to emit a light flux, a deflector configured to scan the light flux emitted from the light source, wherein the deflector is commonly used in the plurality of scanning optical systems. Each of the scanning optical systems further includes a scanning lens configured to condense the scanned light flux to the scanning surface, an optical path inflection mirror configured to inflect the scanned light flux, and an imaging lens configured to lead the light flux emitted from the light source to the deflector. The plurality of scanning optical systems are provided at both sides of the deflector having the deflector therebetween such that one each of the scanning optical systems at both sides of the deflector include a set of the optical scanning system and respective light fluxes scanned by the deflector in the set of the optical scanning system become approximately parallel in a main scanning direction, and an expression,  $|N - M| = 2k + 1$  is satisfied when the number of optical path inflection mirrors provided in each of the set of scanning optical systems is represented by "N" (i.e.,  $N \geq 2$ ) and "M" (i.e.,  $M \geq 1$ ), and "k" is an integer equal to zero or larger.